

Sensitive – Personal

Our ref: s 47E
Your ref: s 47E

7 August 2020

Ms Kate McMullan
Director, Integrity
Australian Public Service Commission
By email: PID@apsc.gov.au

Dear Ms McMullan

Request for Extension

I am writing in response to your request for an extension of 92 days for the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) to complete its investigation of a public interest disclosure (PID).

The disclosure was allocated on 11 May 2020 and the 90 day period to complete this investigation ends on 9 August 2020.

I have decided under section 52 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013* (PID Act) to approve your extension request. The new date to finalise the matter is 9 November 2020. In making this decision, I took into account your advice on the following factors:

- that the disclosure is relatively complex and involves a large volume of documents (897 pages), which has taken some time to consider;
- that the allegations relate to a third party, which the APSC will need to consult to assist its investigation; and
- that the APSC has experienced a large increase in workload due to the COVID-19 response.

If the PID investigation has not concluded with a report by 9 November 2020, the APSC will need to submit an additional extension request to our Office.

Please note that the PID Act also requires an agency to inform the discloser of the progress of an investigation as soon as reasonably practicable after the Ombudsman has granted an extension. I have advised the discloser separately of my extension decision.

Due to remote working arrangements associated with the COVID-19 situation, if you have any questions about this matter we would prefer that you send those by email to

s 47F, s 47E

Yours sincerely

s 47F, s 47E

Authorised Officer
Public Interest Disclosure Team
Commonwealth Ombudsman

Influencing systemic improvement in public administration